

COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN LEARNING

SUPPORTING REDEEMER CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, NEPEAN, ON



CONSTITUTION

COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN LEARNING

PREAMBLE

Believing that a divinely appointed responsibility rests upon Christians to provide scripturally directed education for children of the Christian community, we do make and adopt the following articles of association.

ARTICLE I - Name

The organization shall be known as the Community for Christian Learning, or simply the Community.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

The purpose of the Community is the establishment and maintenance of a Bible-centred program of secondary education in which instruction shall be provided in accordance with Article IV, Religious Principles.

ARTICLE III - Basis

The basis of the Community is the Word of God, the Bible which we hold to be in its entirety the infallible revelation of God. We hold the following truths to be fundamental and self-evident teachings of the Word of God:

3.1 God is one, yet three co-equal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

3.2 He is the Creator of heaven and earth, having created life and substance by a direct creative act, and upholds and directs all things according to His will and by His power.

3.3 He reveals Himself, as well as His will for man, through His written Word, the Bible, and in these last days, He has spoken unto us through Jesus Christ, the Word became flesh.

3.4 Christ is both truly God and truly man, born of the virgin Mary.

3.5 His death on the cross was a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all who believe in Him as their Saviour.

3.6 He arose from the grave in a physical personal resurrection.

3.7 He will come again, in a personal return, upon the clouds of Heaven, to judge the living and the dead, and to bring about a new heaven and a new earth.

3.8 All men are dead in sin and in need of a new birth through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.

3.9 Salvation from sin and judgment is by grace alone, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3.10 The believer, saved by grace, is a new creature in Christ, and will, through the fruits of the Holy Spirit, demonstrate a joyful, thankful, living witness to the saving power of Christ.

ARTICLE IV - Religious Principles

Believing that the Lord God, in His Word, the Bible, has revealed to His people ordering principles very relevant to education, we personally confess, in addition to the basic articles of our faith contained in Article III above, the following scriptural principles as guidelines for instruction:

4.1 Creation: The universe and all things created by God in the beginning were made good and perfect, as is stated in Genesis 1:31 "And God saw everything that He had made and behold it was very good."

4.2 Man: Man was created by God in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27) to enjoy fellowship with His Creator. Furthermore, man was endowed with special gifts which place him far above any other living creature and was given dominion over all things in accordance with God's will, to His honour and glory (I Corinthians 10:31)

4.3 Sin: Through the instigation of the devil, man yielded to temptation and wilfully disobeyed God. This brought God's curse and wrath against sin upon man and the universe. As a result, the universe came under bondage to decay, "groaning in travail" (Roman 8:18-25) and man died a spiritual death, becoming unable to do anything good in God's sight (Romans 7:13-25, Ephesians 2:1-6), and incurred physical and eternal death, because of his willful disobedience (Genesis 2:17).

4.4 Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is God's provision (Genesis 3:15) for the removal of His curse and wrath so that through Him man and creation might be redeemed and reconciled to God (John 3:16). All those who in true personal faith accept Jesus Christ as God's provision are no longer under condemnation, but are reconciled with God (Romans 8:1-2). Reconciliation with God is possible only through Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12).

4.5 The Believer: A person is a believer when, by a true faith he trusts in Christ alone for his salvation (Acts 16:31); is born again through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:30) and through being in Christ bears the fruits of the Spirit (John 15:1-17).

(a) The Parent: Believing parents have a God-given responsibility to teach their children the will and fear of God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), and to nurture the faith that God, in His own way and time, may graciously instill within their hearts (Acts 2:39; II Timothy 1:5).

(b) The Child: Children of the Christian home are a heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3), and should be brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6).

(c) The Teacher: In addition to possessing the highest academic standards possible, the teacher, as a believer must at all times reflect, by word and example, the love of Christ and the glory of God.

4.6 The Kingdom of God: Through His perfect sacrifice and obedience to God's will, Christ received a dominion over all things (Psalm 72:8).

It is the proper and urgent mandate of all believers to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-19), and furthermore, as members of the Kingdom of Heaven, to advocate and promote the recognition of Christ's Lordship in all areas of life.

4.7 The Christian School: Since schools have had delegated to them a teaching task which is fundamentally a parental responsibility believing parents cannot be satisfied with anything less than a Christian school, where their children, as God's precious heritage, can be educated in an atmosphere of love for and obedience to God's will and in accordance with the truths of His Word. Teaching in a Christian school must at all times be characterized by a positive faith in and subjection to God's Word, a genuine love for God and all men, a sincere appreciation of the believer's missionary mandate, and an appropriate rebuttal of forms of scepticism and unbelief directed against the truthfulness of God's Word.

ARTICLE V - Principle of Government

The membership of the Community, acting through its Board of Directors, shall be the sole legislative, judicial and governing agency of the Community in accordance with its Constitution and By-laws. The Board of Directors shall consist of at least seven members, elected from among the membership, with the offices being chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer, and at least three others.

ARTICLE VI - Membership

Membership is granted to individuals or couples upon application to and approval by the Board of Directors.

6.1 Membership in the Community shall be of two types: associate and full. 6.2 Full members have the right to vote at all meetings of the Community and to serve on its committees and Board of Directors, and are expected to support the Community.

6.2.1 Full membership is open to an applicant who:

- (a) is a committed Christian,
- (b) personally agrees with and accepts the Basis and Religious Principles outlined in articles III and IV above, and
- (c) has formerly been a member of the supporting community of a protestant Christian elementary or secondary school or of another Christian institution of higher learning acceptable to the Board or has been an associate member for one year, and,
- (d) pays the annual membership fee.

6.3 Associate members may vote on all matters except the election of directors, amendments to the constitution and by-laws, and dissolution of the Community. They may serve on a committee but not as Directors and are expected to support the Community.

6.3.1 Associate membership is open to an applicant who does not qualify as a full member but who:

- (a) is generally in agreement with the spiritual and moral orientation of the Community, and
- (b) can support the full participation of his/her/ their child(ren) in the program of Redeemer Christian High School, and
- (c) pays the annual membership fees.

6.3.2 Associate members are expected to apply for full membership after one year. Associate members who have a sincere disagreement in some respect with the Basis and Religious Principles outlined in Articles III and IV may nevertheless remain associate members.

6.4 Both full and associate members may lose their standing on the authority of the Board, for cause.

ARTICLE VII - Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Community, all of its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools' member feeder schools on a prorated tuition paying family basis, in the year of dissolution. **ARTICLE VIII - Miscellaneous** 8.1 The community shall not be involved in securing material benefits for its members, and any profits or other incomes received by it shall be used in promoting the purposes of the Community. 8.2 Directors shall receive no remuneration for their services but may be reimbursed for travel expenses, purchases or disbursements made on behalf of the Community when so authorized by the Board.

ARTICLE IX - Amending the Constitution

Articles I through IX inclusive, comprise the Constitution of the Community, and this constitution may only be added to or amended by a clear 2/3 majority vote of the entire membership of the Community eligible to vote on constitutional matters.